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To: R2 ER Mgmt Notification List; Eoc, Epahq; Iglesias, Ariel; R2 ERRD-RAB; R2 ERRD-RPB; Escobar, Leah; Matarazzo, Michael; Torres, Ramon
Sent: 3/21/2015 4:38:31 PM
Subject: St. John, USVI Methyl Bromide Response

All:

Yesterday at approximately 1640 hours, Geoff Garrison was notified of a potential chemical substance exposure that occurred in St. John, USVI. At that time, Geoff initiated contact with Regional EPA management, Virgin Island Government officials, ATSDR and the local hospital to obtain additional information and prepare for a response. Geoff contacted me at 07:30 hours today and we have been coordinating our efforts to obtain additional technical and situational information in order determine the need for and scope of a response. Geoff has been in contact with the VI DPNR Commissioner and is on his way to St. John to assist DPNR in the investigation of this incident. The RST contractor is not being mobilized at this time. The following is a summary of what is currently known and the proposed actions:

A family of four was staying at La Sirena Villa, a relatively new condominium in Coral Bay, St. John. They began their stay approximately 5 days ago and slowly started showing neurological symptoms of chemical exposure. Last night their symptoms worsened to the point they required medical care. They are currently in the St. Thomas Hospital where at least two members of the family have been hospitalized; the details of their current condition are not known at this time. The suspected chemical is methyl bromide.

DPNR has informed Geoff Garrison that DPNR has been in contact with the exterminator for the condominium. The exterminator has confirmed that methyl bromide has been applied to the condominium unit in question. The amount used, method of application, and the timing of the application have not yet been confirmed. It is also not known whether other condominium units have been similarly treated. Geoff is on his way to St. Thomas/St. John to assist DPNR in the investigation and potential sampling of the condominium unit(s). He is expected to arrive on St. Thomas at 16:00 hours today.

I have been coordinating with ERT, RST and Mike Matarazzo on technical and health and safety issues. With the latest information, we have identified sampling equipment and methodologies to be used if needed. ERT has shipped SUMMA canisters, sampling pumps and associated sampling media to St. Thomas. The equipment is expected to arrive on St. Thomas on Monday morning and will be available in the event sampling is required. Once Geoff arrives on St. John and can obtain additional details, we will evaluate the need for additional EPA/ERT/SERAS/RST personnel.